Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): Coated powder, comprising a metallic Ti-bearing core and a metallic Ni-bearing coating, characterised by a Ni:Ti atomic ratio of more than 0.5, preferably between 0.9 and 1.1, and more preferably between 0.96 and 1.04.

Claim 2 (Original): Coated powder according to claim 1, wherein the Ti-bearing core consists of metallic Ti and the Ni-bearing coating consists of metallic Ni.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Powder mixture comprising coated powder according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, further comprising one or both of Ni-bearing powder and Ti-bearing powder, wherein the Ni:Ti atomic ratio of the mixture is between 0.9 and 1.1, preferably between 0.99 and 1.01.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Coated powder ~~or powder mixture~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized by a particle size finer than 150 mesh.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Use of a coated powder ~~or a powder mixture~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 for the manufacture of a sintered body.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): Use of a coated powder ~~or a powder mixture~~ according to claim 5, characterised in that the sintered body is obtained by a self-propagating high temperature process.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A sintered body obtainable by a self-propagating high temperature process using powders according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Process of manufacturing a coated powder according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- providing for suitable quantities of a Ti-bearing powder and of a Ni salt bearing aqueous solution;

- feeding said powder and said solution in an autoclave together with a quantity of NH_4OH, and, optionally, with a quantity of ammonium salts;

- precipitating the Ni onto the Ti-bearing powder by hydrogen reduction;

- washing, filtering and drying the slurry obtained, thereby obtaining a Ni-coated Ti powder.

Claim 9 (Original): Process according to claim 8, whereby the Ni is precipitated onto the Ti-bearing powder at a temperature of at least 100 °C and a hydrogen pressure in the autoclave of at least 1.4 MPa.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Process of manufacturing a coated powder according to claim 3, comprising the steps of: ~~claim 8, and~~

providing for suitable quantities of a Ti-bearing powder and of a Ni salt bearing aqueous solution;

feeding said powder and said solution in an autoclave together with a quantity of NH_4OH, and, optionally, with a quantity of ammonium salts;

precipitating the Ni onto the Ti-bearing powder by hydrogen reduction; and

washing, filtering and drying the slurry obtained, thereby obtaining a Ni-coated Ti powder; and

further comprising the step of intimately mixing the Ni-coated Ti powder with one or both of Ni-bearing and Ti-bearing powder.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Process of manufacturing a porous sintered body based on a Ni-Ti alloy, comprising the steps of ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, and further comprising the step of subjecting the powder or powder mixture to a self-propagating high temperature synthesis operation.

Claim 12 (Original): A sintered body obtainable by a process according to claim 11.